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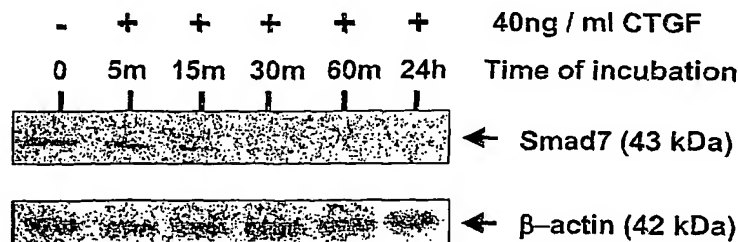
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(54) Title: **BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS AND USES THEREOF**



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method for identifying and/or making compounds for use in reducing and/or preventing fibrosis, comprising the steps: providing a cell type capable of expressing TIEG and/or Smad-7; providing a test compound; providing an amount of CTGF or a functional equivalent thereof, exposing the cell type to the test compound; subsequently or simultaneously exposing the cell type to the CTGF or functional equivalent thereof; detecting and/or measuring the expression of Smad-7 and TIEG; and comparing the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG expressed in the presence of the test compound with the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG produced detected and/or measured in the absence of a test compound; determining if a compound reduces and/or prevents fibrosis on the basis that it causes no change or an increase in Smad-7 expression and/or no change or a decrease in TIEG expression. There is also provided compounds for reducing and/or preventing fibrosis and uses of such compounds.

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